

I am the youngest fulltime on air personality in the state of Ohio, having just had my 21st birthday. Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to work in this business. My grandfather was a pioneer in old time radio, syndicating a weekly show on the NBC network nationwide on historic WAKR-AM in the late 1940's. Much to my dismay, post-deregulation radio has lost the magic. There is no competition anymore. Though I work at an independantly owned station (the only still mom'n'pop in the Canton market), 30 percent of our commercial load comes via Clear Channel Radio. Most everything associated with the artists we play (concerts, interviews, giveaways) have to be arranged through Clear Channel Entertainment. Even our former consultancy (McVay Media) has been rumored to be a front for Clear Channel Worldwide (which happens to own our 2 direct competetors). Radio used to have a certain luster not found in other mediums. It is the first form of communication, an institution in America. Radio was there for the public for education and entertainment. Stations would rival eachother, because they were each out for themselves. Now it is mega corporations looking to squeeze profit out of everything available- pay for play (selling time to record labels to air songs), ticket sales, venues, voice tracking. The rape of radio has to be stopped. It is the public that owns the airwaves; not Clear Channel Worldwide, Viacom, Cumulus, or any other media giant.